

CLAIMS

1. A stone cladding system including:

5 a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building structure and each panel,

10 mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

15 means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure, the rails being mounted upon a plurality of spaced-apart vertical mullions having associated anchor means for supporting the mullions in an upright orientation on the building structure,

a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail,

20 one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of the cladding panel to the upper rail,

25 each retaining clip having an inner end and an outer end, said inner end of the clip being adapted for snap engagement with the upper rail, and said outer end of the clip having a retaining arm engagable within a slot extending along a top edge of the cladding panel.

2. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each mullion has laterally extending supports on opposite sides of the mullion for engaging and supporting insulation panels between adjacent pairs of mullions in use.

- 30 3. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the supports include a pair of fins which project outwardly at opposite sides of the mullion.

wherein the fins are mounted

4. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 3, intermediate a front outer end and a rear inner end of the mullion.

5. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the fins extend between a top and a bottom of the mullion.

5 6. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 3 wherein ribs project outwardly of the side of the mullion spaced-apart from each fin, forwardly of the fin, to define with an inner end of the fin a seal retaining channel on the mullion.

10 7. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each mullion has a pair of re-entrant slots adjacent the inner end of the mullion and extending between a top and a bottom of the mullion at opposite sides of the mullion, each of said slots for sliding reception of an associated mullion nut bar which co-operates with a complementary anchor nut bar and lock nut for clamping engagement of the anchor means between said nut bars.

15 8. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the retaining clip is L-shaped having a horizontal top plate and a downwardly extending arm at an outer end of the top plate, said top plate being cranked intermediate its ends and having at its inner end a head for snap engagement with a complementary receiver slot in the rail.

20 9. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 8 wherein a hooked lip is provided at an outer end of the top plate projecting upwardly from the top plate, said hooked lip being engagable within a complementary receiver slot at a front of the rail.

10. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bottom of the cladding panel is supported along substantially all of its length upon the lower rail.

25 11. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1 wherein complementary interengagable formations are provided upon associated mating faces of each anchor and mullion.

12. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the complementary interengagable formations comprise mating serrations on the mullion and on

the anchor.

13. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the serrations have ridges arranged in a vertical orientation.
14. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each mullion has two mutually perpendicular side faces of different depth.
15. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a reentrant slot is provided along a face of the mullion for receipt of a mounting bolt having a head and a shank, the head being slidably captured within the slot with the shank projecting outwardly of the slot for attachment to a mullion anchor means.
16. A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lower rail has an outwardly projecting panel support arm with an upturned flange at an outer end of the arm which is engagable within a mounting slot extending along a bottom edge of the panel.
17. A stone cladding system including:
- a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building structure and each panel,
 - mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,
 - means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure,
 - a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail
 - one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of the cladding panel to the upper rail,

each retaining clip having an inner end and an outer end, said inner end of the clip being adapted for snap engagement with the upper rail, and said outer end of the clip having a retaining arm engagable within a slot extending along a top edge of the cladding panel.

5 18. A stone cladding system including:

a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building structure and each panel,

10 mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure,

a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail

15 one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of the cladding panel to the upper rail,

each retaining clip having an inner end and an outer end, said inner end of the clip being adapted for snap engagement with the upper rail, and said outer end of the clip having a retaining arm engagable within a slot extending along a top edge of the cladding panel,

20 the retaining clip being L-shaped having a horizontal top plate and downwardly extending arm at an outer end of the top plate, said top plate being cranked intermediate its ends and having at its inner end a head for snap engagement with a complementary receiver slot in the rail.

25 19. A stone cladding system including:

a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building

mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding
panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation
and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure,

5 a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail

one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of the
cladding panel to the upper rail,

10 each retaining clip having an inner end and an outer end, said inner
end of the clip being adapted for snap engagement with the upper rail
and said outer end of the clip having a retaining arm engagable within
a slot extending along a top edge of the cladding panel,

15 the retaining clip being L-shaped having a horizontal top plate and
downwardly extending arm at an outer end of the top plate, said top
plate being cranked intermediate its ends and having at its inner end
head for snap engagement with a complementary receiver slot in the
rail,

a hooked lip being provided at an outer end of the top plate projecting
upwardly from the top plate, said hooked lip being engagable within
complementary receiver slot at a front of the rail.

20 20. A stone cladding system including:

a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to
form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building
structure and each panel.

25 mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding
panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation
and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure, the rails being

associated anchor means for supporting the mullions in an upright orientation on the building structure.

a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail

one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of the cladding panel to the upper rail,

each retaining clip having an inner end and an outer end, said inner end of the clip being adapted for snap engagement with the upper rail, and said outer end of the clip having a retaining arm engagable within a slot extending along a top edge of the cladding panel,

the retaining clip being L-shaped having a horizontal top plate and downwardly extending arm at an outer end of the top plate, said top plate being cranked intermediate its ends and having at its inner end head for snap engagement with a complementary receiver slot in the rail.

21. A stone cladding system including:

a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building structure and each panel,

mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure, the rails being mounted upon a plurality of spaced-apart vertical mullions having associated anchor means for supporting the mullions in an upright orientation on the building structure,

a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail

one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of

each retaining clip having an inner end and an outer end, said inner end of the clip being adapted for snap engagement with the upper rail, and said outer end of the clip having a retaining arm engagable within a slot extending along a top edge of the cladding panel.

5 the retaining clip being L-shaped having a horizontal top plate and downwardly extending arm at an outer end of the top plate, said top plate being cranked intermediate its ends and having at its inner end head for snap engagement with a complementary receiver slot in the rail,

10 a hooked lip being provided at an outer end of the top plate projecting upwardly from the top plate, said hooked lip being engagable within complementary receiver slot at a front of the rail.

22. A stone cladding system including:

15 a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building structure and each panel,

mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

20 means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure, the rails being mounted upon a plurality of spaced-apart vertical mullions having associated anchor means for supporting the mullions in an upright orientation on the building structure.

25 each mullion having laterally extending supports on opposite sides of the mullion for engaging and supporting insulation panels between adjacent pairs of mullions in use,

a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail

cladding panel to the upper rail.

10073943 07400